

SEC. 16. REPEAL OF THE RAMSPECK ACT.

(a) REPEAL.—Subsection (c) of section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, is repealed.

(b) REDESIGNATION.—Subsection (d) of section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, is redesignated as subsection (c).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal and amendment made by this section shall take effect 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 17. EXCEPTED SERVICE AND OTHER EXPERIENCE CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE SERVICE APPOINTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3304 of title 5, United States Code (as amended by section 2 of this Act) is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(d) The Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations on the manner and extent that experience of an individual in a position other than the competitive service, such as the excepted service (as defined under section 2103) in the legislative or judicial branch, or in any private or non-profit enterprise, may be considered in making appointments to a position in the competitive service (as defined under section 2102). In promulgating such regulations OPM shall not grant any preference based on the fact of service in the legislative or judicial branch. The regulations shall be consistent with the principles of equitable competition and merit based appointments.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, except the Office of Personnel Management shall—

(1) conduct a study on excepted service considerations for competitive service appointments relating to such amendment; and

(2) take all necessary actions for the regulations described under such amendment to take effect as final regulations on the effective date of this section.

SEC. 18. EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS.

An organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which engages in lobbying activities shall not be eligible for the receipt of Federal funds constituting an award, grant, contract, loan, or any other form.

SEC. 19. AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT (P.L. 75-583).

Strike section 11 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

“SECTION 11. REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—The Attorney General shall every six months report to the Congress concerning administration of this Act, including registrations filed pursuant to the Act, and the nature, sources and content of political propaganda disseminated and distributed.”.

SEC. 20. DISCLOSURE OF THE VALUE OF ASSETS UNDER THE ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1978.

(a) INCOME.—Section 102(a)(1)(B) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 is amended—

(1) in clause (vii) by striking “or”; and

(2) by striking clause (viii) and inserting the following:

“(viii) greater than \$1,000,000 but not more than \$5,000,000, or

“(ix) greater than \$5,000,000.”.

(b) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.—Section 102(d)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F) by striking “and”; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (G) and inserting the following:

“(G) greater than \$1,000,000 but not more than \$5,000,000;

“(H) greater than \$5,000,000 but not more than \$25,000,000;

“(I) greater than \$25,000,000 but not more than \$50,000,000; and

“(J) greater than \$50,000,000.”.

(c) EXCEPTION.—Section 102(e)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 is amended by adding after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) For purposes of this section, categories with amounts or values greater than \$1,000,000 set forth in sections 102(a)(1)(B) and 102(d)(1) shall apply to the income, assets, or liabilities of spouses and dependent children only if the income, assets, or liabilities are held jointly with the reporting individual. All other income, assets, or liabilities of the spouse or dependent children required to be reported under this section in an amount or value greater than \$1,000,000 shall be categorized only as an amount or value greater than \$1,000,000.”.

SEC. 21. BAN ON TRADE REPRESENTATIVE REPRESENTING OR ADVISING FOREIGN ENTITIES.

(a) REPRESENTING AFTER SERVICE.—Section 207(f)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) inserting “or Deputy United States Trade Representative” after “is the United States Trade Representative”; and

(2) striking “within 3 years” and inserting “at any time”.

(b) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENT AS UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.—Section 141(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENTS.—A person who has directly represented, aided, or advised a foreign entity (as defined by section 207(f)(3) of title 18, United States Code) in any trade negotiation, or trade dispute, with the United States may not be appointed as United States Trade Representative or as a Deputy United States Trade Representative.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to an individual appointed as United States Trade Representative or as a Deputy United States Trade Representative on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 22. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST IN QUALIFIED BLIND TRUST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(a) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(8) The category of the total cash value of any interest of the reporting individual in a qualified blind trust, unless the trust instrument was executed prior to July 24, 1995 and precludes the beneficiary from receiving information on the total cash value of any interest in the qualified blind trust.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 102(d)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 is amended by striking “and (5) and inserting “(5), and (8)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to reports filed under title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 for calendar year 1996 and thereafter.

SEC. 23. SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT LOBBYING EXPENSES SHOULD REMAIN NON-DEDUCTIBLE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that ordinary Americans generally are not allowed to deduct the costs of communicating with their elected representatives.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that lobbying expenses should not be tax deductible.

SEC. 24. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, this Act and the amendments made

by this Act shall take effect on January 1, 1996.

(b) The repeals and amendments made under sections 13, 14, 15, and 16 shall take effect as provided under subsection (a), except that such repeals and amendments—

(1) shall not affect any proceeding or suit commenced before the effective date under subsection (a), and in all such proceedings or suits, proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the same effect as if this Act had not been enacted; and

(2) shall not affect the requirements of Federal agencies to compile, publish, and retain information filed or received before the effective date of such repeals and amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 269, the previous question is ordered. The question is on the third reading of the Senate bill.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A similar House bill (H.R. 2564) was laid on the table.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN ENROLLMENT OF S. 1060, LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1995

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 116) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make technical corrections in the enrollment of S. 1060, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Florida to explain the purpose of his unanimous-consent request.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the concurrent resolution directs the enrolling clerk to correct solely technical errors in the Senate bill, especially with respect to some erroneous cross references. It makes no substantive changes in the bill. The concurrent resolution is necessary so that the bill that will be sent to the President will be technically correct.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 116

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That in the enrollment of the bill S. 1060, to provide for the disclosure of lobbying activities to influence the Federal Government, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 6(8), strike "6" and insert "7".

(2) In section 9(7), insert "and" after the semicolon, in section 9(8), strike "and" and insert a period, and strike paragraph (9) of section 9.

(3) In section 12(c), strike "7" and insert "6".

(4) In section 15(a)(2), strike "8" and insert "7".

(5) In section 15(b)(1), strike "5(a)(2)," and in section 15(b)(2), strike "8" and insert "7".

(6) In section 24(b), strike "13, 14, 15, and 16" and insert "9, 10, 11, and 12".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2099,
DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 280, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMERSON). Pursuant to rule XXVIII, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of November 17, 1995, at page H13249).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES] each will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report on H.R. 2099 as well as the Senate amendments reported in disagreement, and that I may include charts, tables and other extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have before us H.R. 2099, which is a very, very complex bill dealing with diverse agencies such as veterans, housing, EPA, NASA, and a variety of other independent agencies and commissions.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to start my comments by expressing my deep appreciation for my colleagues within the subcommittee who have worked so hard to bring this package together in a successful fashion. Be-

yond that, Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to know that this work would not have been able to be done successfully without the assistance of very fine staff, headed by my chief of staff within the committee, Mr. Frank Cushing, and his colleagues.

I would also like to mention, Mr. Speaker, that within my personal staff a great deal of assistance was provided for me, I would like to extend my appreciation particularly today to David LesStrang, Jeff Shockey, and one of my key staff people who will be leaving us shortly, Mr. Doc Syers.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a combination of pleasure and pain that I bring this bill to the floor today, and I would suggest first that the pleasure is there because I am very proud of the fact that this subcommittee has led the way in putting Uncle Sam on a diet. This bill represents \$10.1 billion as a down payment toward balancing the budget by 2002.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, up until now we have been talking about moving toward balancing the budget. This, however, is where the rubber meets the road. It is one thing to talk. It is another thing to make the very, very tough decisions.

Let me suggest that the pain that I mentioned earlier involves that very fact. Unfortunately, the spirit of bipartisanship among the committee members that has long been a hallmark of the Committee on Appropriations has suffered as a result of our taking a different turn in the road regarding this country's spending habits. Even as we continue to travel on that road to balance the budget, I pledge to do all that I can, Mr. Speaker, to bring this subcommittee back to that bipartisan spirit that we have lost this year.

This conference report reflects a willingness to make the very tough decisions and to meet the spending targets necessary to balance the budget in 7 years. As I have suggested, out of 13 appropriations subcommittees, the VA-HUD bill makes the single largest contribution toward balancing the budget. It does not wait until year 5 or year 7 or year 10. We are making the tough decisions today. No longer will we tolerate paying lip service to the goal of deficit reduction.

This conference report of \$61.3 billion in new discretionary spending represents a reduction in budget authority of 13.1 percent, and it is about \$9.25 billion below the administration's requested spending level for fiscal year 1996.

To say the least, the decisions that led to these reductions were certainly not easy ones to make. The work of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies has changed dramatically from last year. No longer do we simply compare the agency account on the basis of what they received last year, then add on a certain amount for inflation and maybe tack on some more there to establish a new base level.

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We have now completed a bottom-up review of all of our agencies. This is all part of a process of justifying each program's existence and examining how taxpayer dollars are being used. I intend to continue this approach next year so that every program within every agency under our jurisdiction receives the kind of necessary scrutiny to find appropriate savings.

The subcommittee began working on this bill on January 24 when we held the first of over 20 separate hearings. When our bill passed the House in late July we showed a reduction from the 1995 enacted level of \$9.7 billion, while the Senate showed a reduction of \$8.4 billion in budget authority.

As I noted, the conferees essentially split the difference for a net reduction of over \$9 billion.

However, during the process we were also able to take advantage of an additional 1 year's legislative savings, a provision at HUD, thus giving us an additional \$1 billion, with which to better fund housing programs.

Let me at this time take a moment to share some of the positive actions recently taken by the House-Senate conference meeting. We provided an increase of \$400 million over the 1995 level for VA medical care and were able to do away with the so-called incompetent veterans' legislative savings provision that was of concern to many. We provided some \$24.4 billion for HUD programs. While this is a reduction from the budget request, it actually represents a program level of \$1 billion over the earlier House-passed bill.

Most importantly, this increase would achieve for 1996 without adversely impacting our outlay problems in 1997 and beyond.

In the bill we terminated four Federal agencies for savings of \$705 million, including the Office of Consumer Affairs, the Chemical Safety and Hazards Investigation Board, Community Development Financial Institutions, and the Corporation for National Community Service.

We fully funded the space station and space shuttle programs, even though NASA took its fair share of downsizing like every other department and agency under this subcommittee's jurisdiction.

We provided over \$1.1 billion to continue the Superfund Program at EPA and over \$2.3 billion for wastewater, drinking water, and various categorical grants to the States so they can adequately meet Federal environmental mandates.

We also created a performance partnership program between the EPA and the States so that these funds can be used where the States believe they are most needed.

Finally, we have not included any of the EPA legislative provisions as passed by the House and only four passed by the Senate. Of those, three were included in last year's bill signed by the President.